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USAID PREVENT PROJECT

The Peruvian Amazon is one of the world's most biodiverse and culturally rich ecosystems. Yet environmental crimes like illegal logging and mining, and trafficking of endangered species, increasingly threaten biodiversity. USAID works with the Government of Peru and civil society to address this complex challenge.

The Prevent Project works with the Government of Peru and civil society to improve the enabling conditions to prevent and combat environmental crimes, thereby reducing these crimes and negative impact within and around protected areas and forest and indigenous lands, it also addresses environmental defenders issues and concerns in the Peruvian Amazon. This project is receiving support from the Norwegian Agency for development cooperation (NORAD) to address forest-related crimes.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

Prevent will work with Peruvian environmental justice officials and government institutions to build capacities and institute necessary reforms to reduce environmental crimes. Through a systems approach, the project will tailor solutions to local realities to optimize targeted interventions.

The project will use data and technology to accelerate the engagement of local and indigenous communities in monitoring to reduce environmental threats. Through an intensive public outreach strategy, Prevent will promote active participation from civil society, media, activists and the business sector to strengthen advocacy and information dissemination. All project interventions will incorporate gender equity and social inclusion, private sector resource mobilization, civil society engagement, particularly indigenous and vulnerable populations, and sustainability.

WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED?

The project aims to achieve the following results:

- Improve the conservation of ecosystems in priority biodiversity areas.
- Reduce the deforestation rate from illegal gold mining, particularly in Madre de Dios.
- Develop a national legal framework to prevent and combat environmental crimes.
- Increase the capacity and resources of key government agencies to prevent and combat environmental crimes.
- Increase the number of successful legal cases against environmental offenders.
- Strengthen and improve tools for environmental crime monitoring and reporting.
- Leverage funds from the private sector to combat environmental crimes.
- Increase the use of technology and innovation in reducing mercury and other harmful practices.
- Strengthen the mining formalization process through inclusion of social and environmental safeguards.
- Strengthen the collective protection networks for environmental defenders, raise awareness on their plight, and provide direct security, medical, and legal support grants to receive timely and effective assistance when victimized by gangs and smugglers.

PROJECT INFORMATION

IMPLEMENTER: DAI (Development Associates International)

PARTNERS: Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA), Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI)

DURATION: September 27, 2019 – September 27, 2024

USAID FUNDING: \$24,684,000

LOCATION: Lima, Loreto, Madre de Dios and Ucayali

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